

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited Masuda and Tsunoda patents. By this response, however, the claims have been amended in a manner that is believed to clarify and stress the patentable distinctions of such claims over the prior art.

In particular, the invention includes an original placement portion on which an original is placed for being scanned by an optical unit disposed there below. The optical unit moves on a supporting guide member, and includes a unit frame that holds an optical element. The unit frame includes a slider having a screw that is vertically threaded in a hole formed in the unit frame, wherein that screw rides on the guide member. A vertical portion of the unit frame, threaded to the guide member, is adjusted according to rotation of the screw, and the screw includes a plurality of projecting portions provided on a root of its threads, wherein the projecting portions are disposed along a circumference of the threads and are plastically deformed when threaded into the hole in the unit frame.

These claim requirements are not disclosed in the cited Masuda and Tsunoda patents, that is, no matter how those patents may be interpreted, they do not disclose the concept of a screw that rides on a guide member, and that is threaded in a unit frame for an optical unit, to adjust the vertical distance between the optical unit and the original placement portion.

Accordingly, it is believed that amended Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references, and that all of the dependent claims take their patentability from amended Claim

1. Similarly, independent Claim 13 has been amended in the same manner as claim 1, wherefore Claim 13 is also allowable, so that the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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